

Arboretum News

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Winter 1998-99

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The Next 50 Years of Plants and People - California Arboretum Foundation 1998-2048

NEW AT THE ARBORETUM:

Sunset Magazine Demonstration Garden



The *Sunset Magazine* Demonstration Gardens at The Arboretum are now open to walk through and view work in progress, prior to the completion in Spring of 1999.

1. GARDENING UNDER THE OAKS

A garden inspired by California's native oak woodland. Fallen leaves, stones, and boulders cover most of the area, with occasional shrubs and grasses as accents. *Design: Jana Ruzicka, Laguna Beach*

2. DECK GARDEN

This garden brings together natural and man-made products into an environmentally friendly setting. It is beautiful, yet low maintenance, edged with beds of perennials and fragrant bloomers. *Design: Jane MacDonald Adrian, Environmental Interests, La Crescenta*

3. DINING AND ENTERTAINING PATIO

A patio with all the comforts of home: outdoor barbecue, fireplace, kitchen and furnishings. Drought-tolerant plants provide texture, fragrance, and visual interest. *Design: Nick Williams, Nick Williams & Associates, Tarzana*

4. FORMAL COURTYARD

This tailored garden features a central point with a water sculpture, outdoor fireplace with built-in seating, lush planting pockets, and hand-crafted copper gates. *Design: Nick Williams, Nick Williams & Associates, Tarzana.*

5. NOSTALGIA GARDEN

Created as a way to reconnect with the natural world, this garden is a comfortable outdoor space reminiscent of an "old

fashioned" garden.

A circular lawn is surrounded by a mixture of shrubs, perennials and herbs. *Design: Jerry Williams, Outer Spaces, Toluca Lake.*

6. WOODLAND GARDEN

Designed to provide a woodland experience, this garden uses plants that thrive in a warm Southern California climate. It features a flagstone sitting area with a stone bench, and a dry stream bed mimics a mountain wash at the heart of this garden. *Design: Anna Armstrong and Richard Walker, Armstrong & Walker Landscape Architecture, Monrovia.*

7. WATER RETREAT

A curvaceous pond edged with layers of plants is a soothing backdrop for a small patio/conversation area, with a secluded bench for quiet contemplation. *Design: David W. Squires, SAA Planning and Design, Santa Monica.*

8. NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN

This garden's design combines natural materials - stones, plants, and earth - to capture the spirit of nature with a sculptural representation of a peaceful spring. *Design: Ronnie Siegal, Swire Siegal, La Canada/Flintridge.*

9. EDUCATION CENTER

This area is designed for educational displays and garden demonstrations. Details about each of the eight gardens, including their contributors, will be posted at this location. ♣



Along Arboretum Paths

Compiled by Nelson Holmes, *Along Arboretum Paths*, will take you to a different part of the Garden each issue.

To continue Along Arboretum Paths ... from the Tropical Forest about 50 yards further down Circle road, to the right, across Baldwin Lake, is the Queen Anne Cottage, the most famous and recognized building on the grounds. The cottage was built in 1885 by Elias Jackson "Lucky" Baldwin as a honeymoon cottage for his fourth wife. Unfortunately for Lucky, Lillie left for San Francisco before the Queen Anne Cottage was completed. After their divorce, Lucky dedicated the Queen Anne Cottage to the memory of his third wife Jennie. The cottage has been maintained in its original red and white color scheme which dramatically sets it apart from the lush green of the surrounding plantings.

Also on your right is the reconstructed Hugo Reid Adobe. Originally built in 1840 with the help of the Gabrielino Indians, the structure is named for Hugo Reid, a Cambridge educated Scot, who became the first private owner of the expansive "Rancho Santa Anita."

After purchasing the property in 1875, Baldwin expanded the original floor plan of the adobe, making it his home during his stays on the 46,000 acre rancho.

Plants to note in the area are the *Robina pseudoacacia*, **Black Locust**, which is the large tree to the right nearest the road. The Black Locust produces beautiful clusters of fragrant white blooms in the spring and retains its bean-like seed pods through the winter. This tree was introduced to California by emigrants from the eastern United States during the middle of the 19th century and now grows

wild throughout the state.

To the right, directly in front of the adobe, is a bed of *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, **California Buckwheat**, which is a Southern California native growing in the foothills from Santa Clara to San Diego Counties. The small black seeds of the *Eriogonum* were painstakingly gathered by local Indian tribes and ground into a "buckwheat flour."

At the south end of the adobe across from the Buckwheat is the *Chilopsis linearis*, **Desert Catalpa**, **Desert Willow**, a graceful, thin leafed, tree, native to the southwest. The *Chilopsis* produces delicate, ruffled, trumpet shaped flowers that can run in color from pink to lavender, and the blooms may last from spring to early autumn. The drought tolerant *Chilopsis* is a native of California's Low Desert region.

To continue through the historical section of The Arboretum, to the left, as you face southward, is the pathway through the Palm and Bamboo collection, leading to the Santa Anita Depot. The depot, built by the Santa Fe Railroad in 1890, was closed in 1940 and faced demolition to accommodate the construction of the Foothill Freeway. Concerned citizens and civic

groups rallied to save the building, and it was dismantled brick by brick and reconstructed on its current site at The Arboretum. The Santa Anita Depot is open to the public for docent led tours each Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

As you leave the Depot, walk back to the Circle Road and continue past the adobe. On the left, just before the Adobe, are two palms near the road. The first is the *Livistona muelleri*, **Dwarf Fan Palm**, slender palm with a darker trunk, and native to Australia and New Guinea. Just beyond is the *Brahea armata*, **Mexican Blue Palm**, a striking palm with colorful blue-green foliage and native to Baja California and northwestern Mexico. The species name *armata* means "armed with thorns," those being noticeable on the stock of the fronds. The Mexican Blue Palm produced plumes of blossoms that may extend 12 to 15 feet.

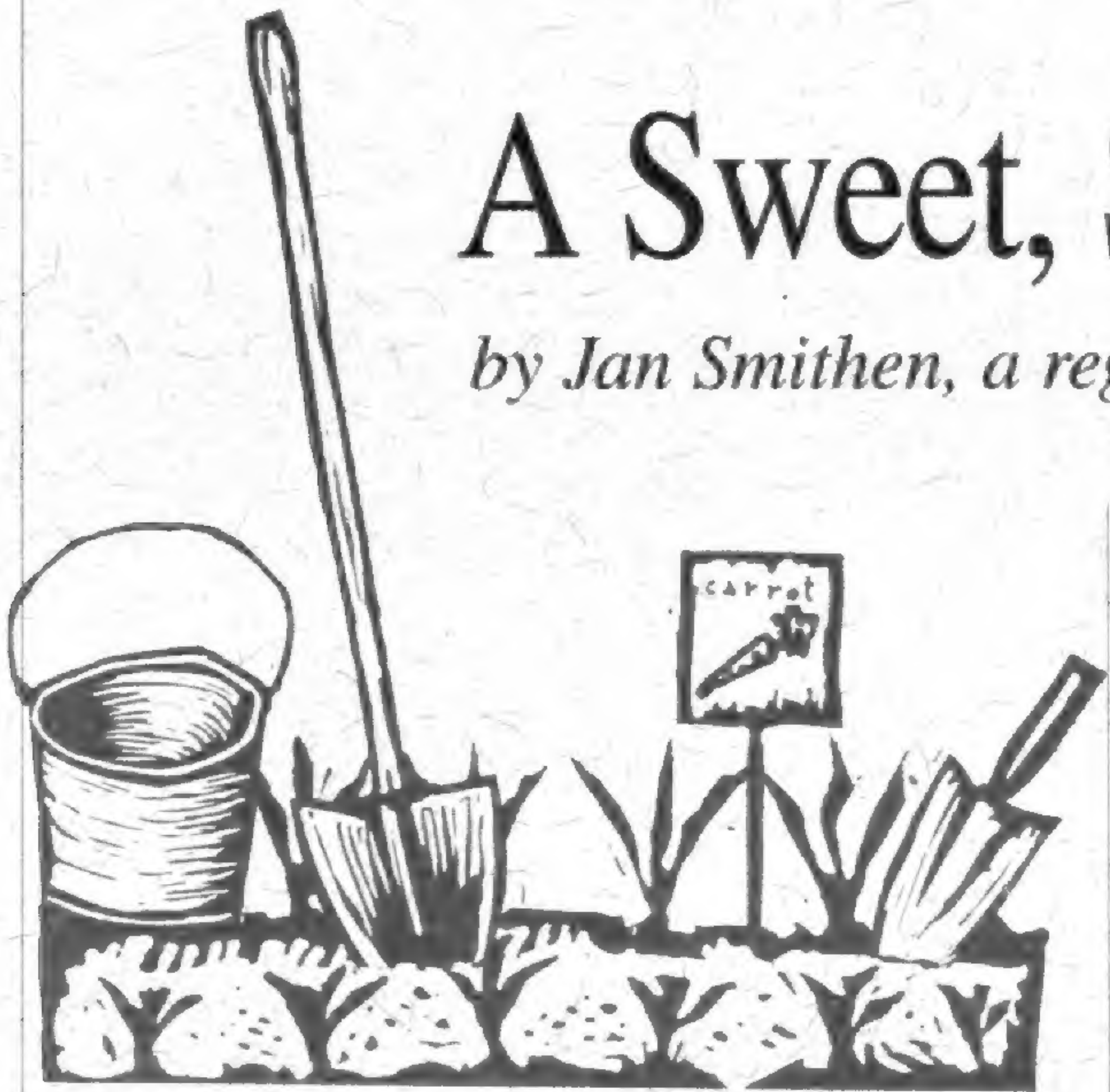


The Santa Anita Depot

A short distance beyond the tram stop sign, is the *Chamaerops humilis*, **European Fan Palm**, a multi-trunked variety that is native to the Mediterranean region. The last variety of palm included in this international quartet is the *Phoenix rupicola*, **Cliff Date Palm**, and a native of India. These sturdy palms, two large specimens on the left just beyond the *Chamaerops*, grow naturally in rugged, rocky cliff and gorge areas. ❁

A Sweet, Sweetpea Idea

by Jan Smithen, a regular contributor to the *Arboretum News*



It's not too late to sow sweetpeas, and here's a good idea for those with small gardens or not much room left in the sun. All you need is 8 to 16 seeds and a sunny space no bigger than a tomato plant would occupy. Buy a bag of steer manure and 4 or 5 bamboo poles, 8 feet long. If you're lucky enough to know someone who grows Golden Bamboo (*Bambusa multiplex* 'Golden Goddess') with its little branches at each node, see if you can have a few 8 foot culms. Trim each of the little branches to 4 or 6 inches.

Soak your sweetpea seeds overnight in a cup of hot water. Next day, plant 4 seeds each in a 4 inch plastic pot. Use a good potting mix and poke the seeds down 1/2 inch, no more. Firm in gently with your fingertips and gently soak with water until it comes out the bottom. Place the pots outside where they get good light, but no hot sun. Keep them watered every day or two until they germinate: 10 days to two weeks.

This gives you time to prepare the area where they are to go. Select a sunny spot 3 or 4 foot square and lay over your whole bag of manure. Dig it in with a garden fork as deep as you can. Sweetpeas love manure, but like to grow into it, not be planted in it.

Make a circle around the outside of your prepared spot and push your bamboo

poles into the ground evenly spaced around its circumference. They need to go in 12 to 14 inches deep. Stamp them down well. Draw the tops of the poles together like a teepee and tie them with garden twine.

When your sweetpeas have germinated and grown to about 4 inches, it is time to plant them. Dig two to four holes around the inside perimeter of your teepee, depending on how many pots you've seeded. Carefully knock the seedlings out of the pot and plant at the same level. You need not separate them;

so you might as well pull them out and take down your teepee until next year.

A new source of outstanding sweetpea seeds is right here in California. These are the large flowering, long stemmed English varieties that you love to bury your nose in, they smell so good. You can even select your sweetpeas in one or more individual colors if you wish.

ENCHANTING SWEETPEAS

244 Florence Avenue

Sebastopol, CA 95472

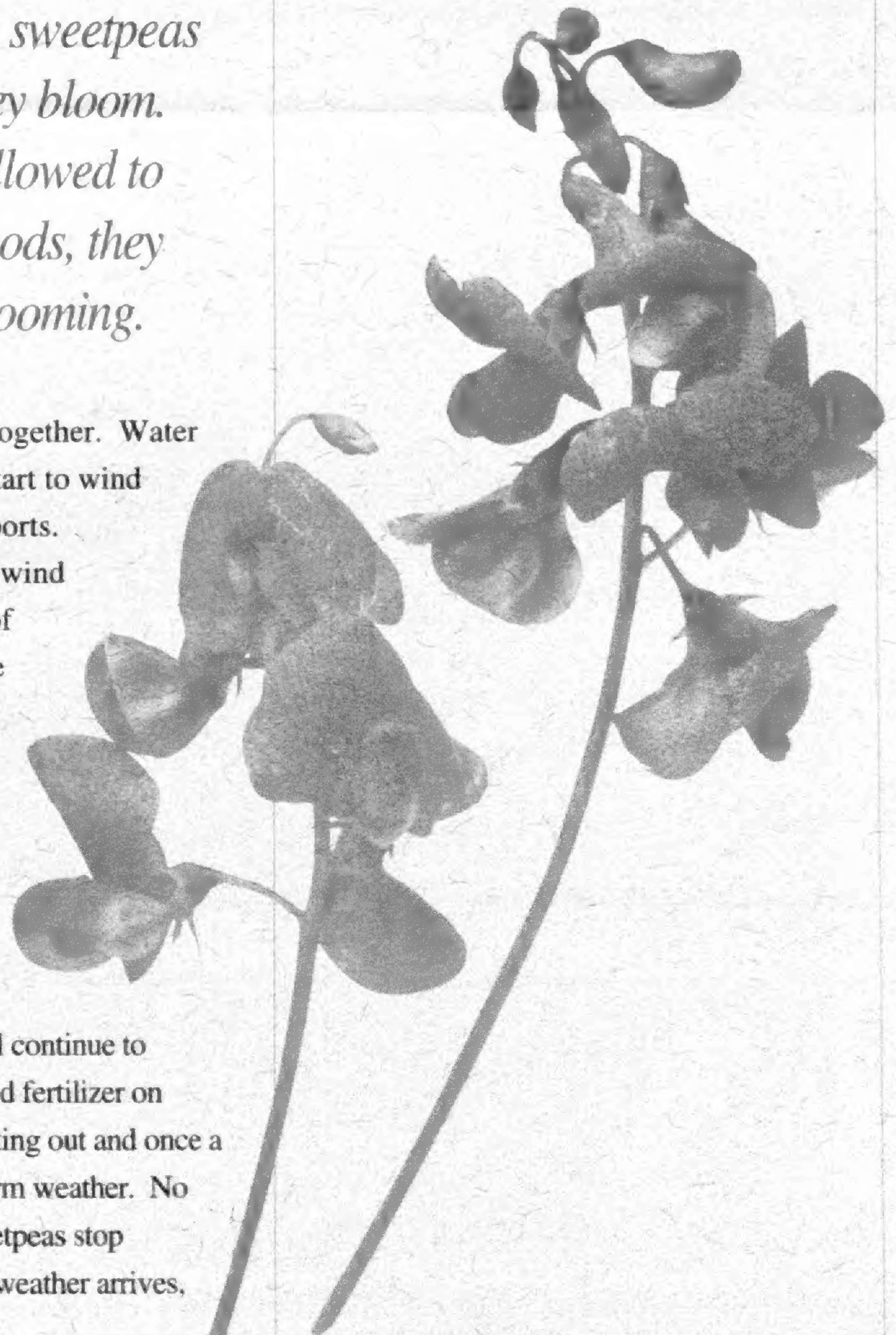
To order call 800-371-0233

or fax 707-829-5285

You must keep sweetpeas picked as they bloom. If they are allowed to make seed pods, they will stop blooming.

plant the whole potful together. Water well. Soon, they will start to wind and reach for their supports. Some gardeners like to wind twine around the base of their teepee, just to give the young plants a little guidance.

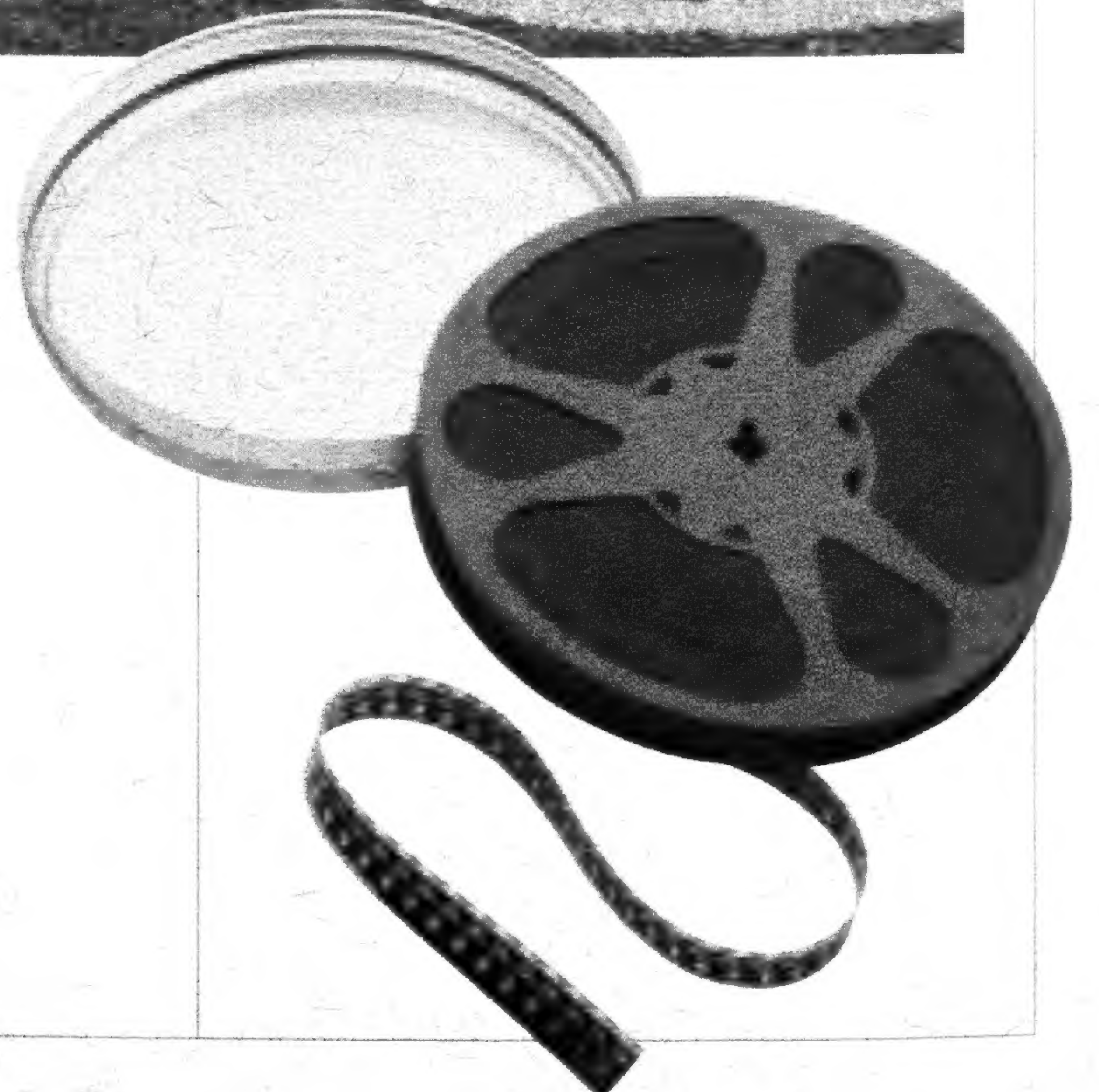
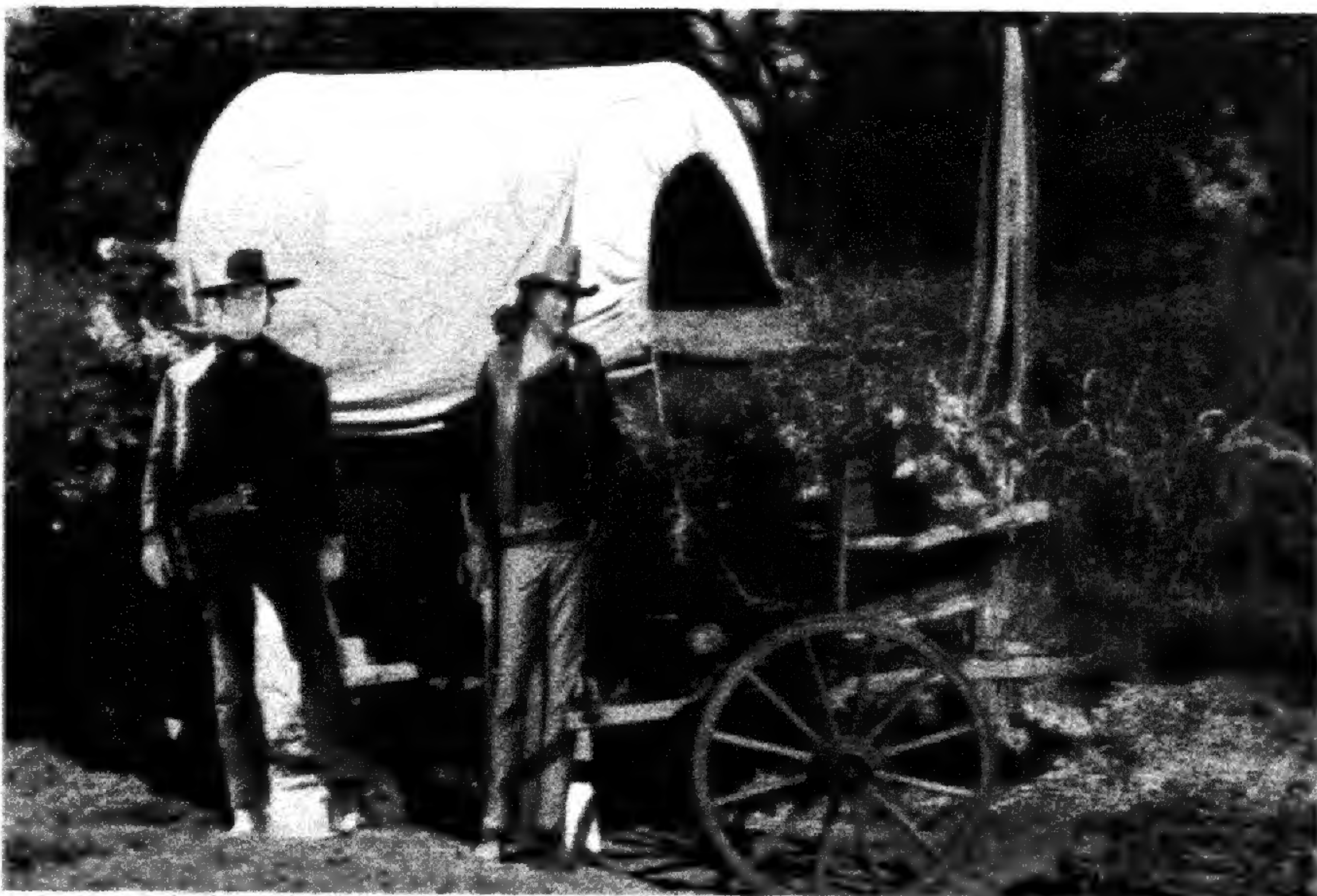
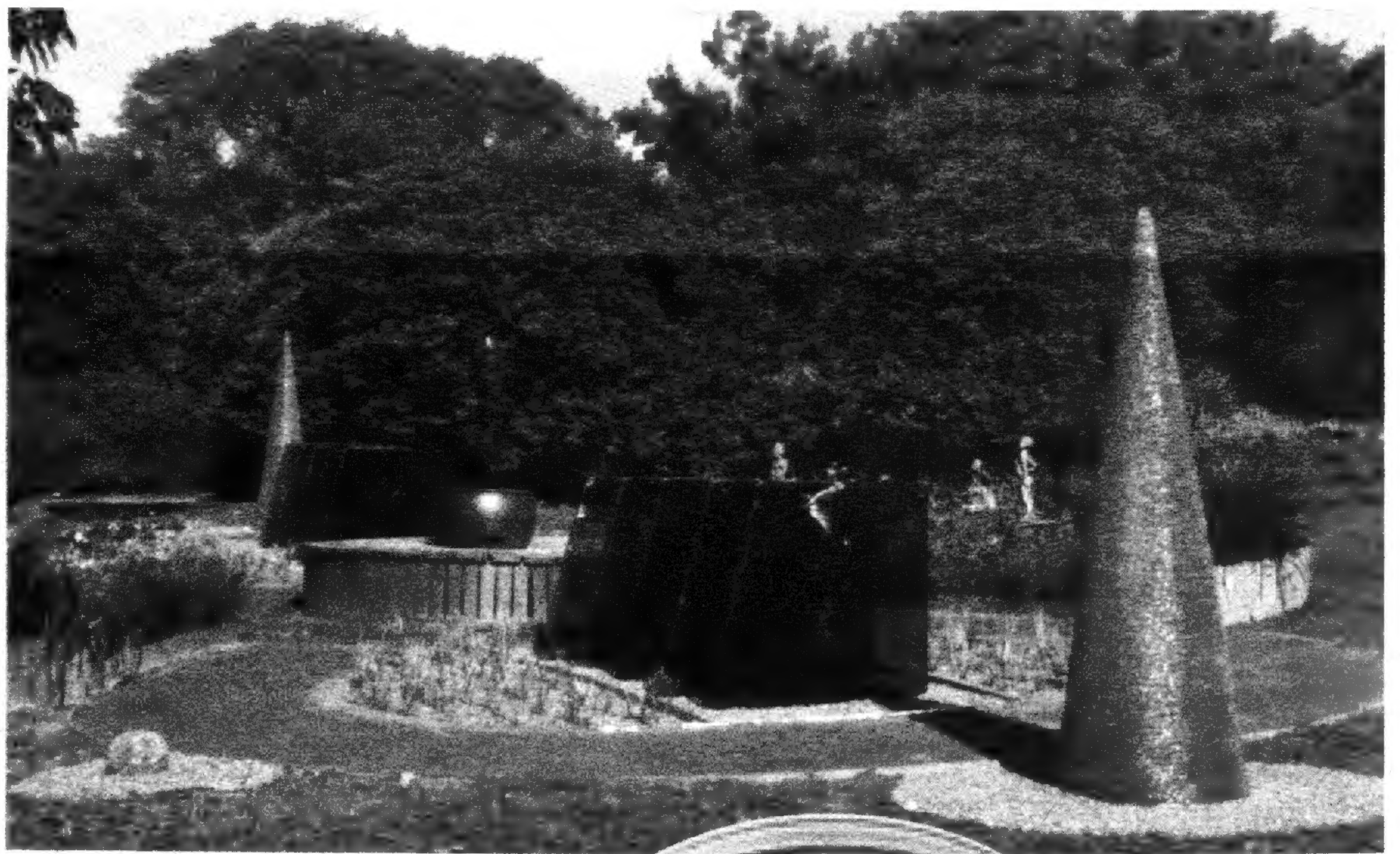
You must keep sweetpeas picked as they bloom. If they are allowed to make seed pods, they will stop blooming. They also will continue to perform if you use a liquid fertilizer on them one month after setting out and once a month after that until warm weather. No matter what you do, sweetpeas stop blooming as soon as hot weather arrives,





CLIPS FROM THE SILVER SCREEN

THE 1998 GARDEN SHOW





And the awards go to...

Best Use of Texture

THE VAMPIRE'S GARDEN

Designer: Laura Cooper

Best Use of Containers

CASABLANCA - RICK'S CAFE

*Designers: Pamela Berstler
& Alex Stevens*

Most Fun To Experience

**THE DARK SIDE:
AN HOMAGE TO THE
SURREAL**

*Designers: The Eastside
Germinators*

Best Use of Color

**ROAD TO MOROCCO:
A GARDEN FOR MARLENE
DIETRICH**

Designer: Judy Kameon

Most Adaptable to Small Places

**ROAD TO MOROCCO:
A GARDEN FOR
MARLENE DIETRICH**

Designer: Judy Kameon

Best Hardscape/Architecture

**THE OTHER GARDEN
OF ALLAH**

Designer: Martin Kelly

Best Sustainable Landscape Design

**THE OTHER GARDEN
OF ALLAH**

Designer: Martin Kelly

Best Use of Water

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Designer: Maria DeLuca

Best Interpretation of Show Theme

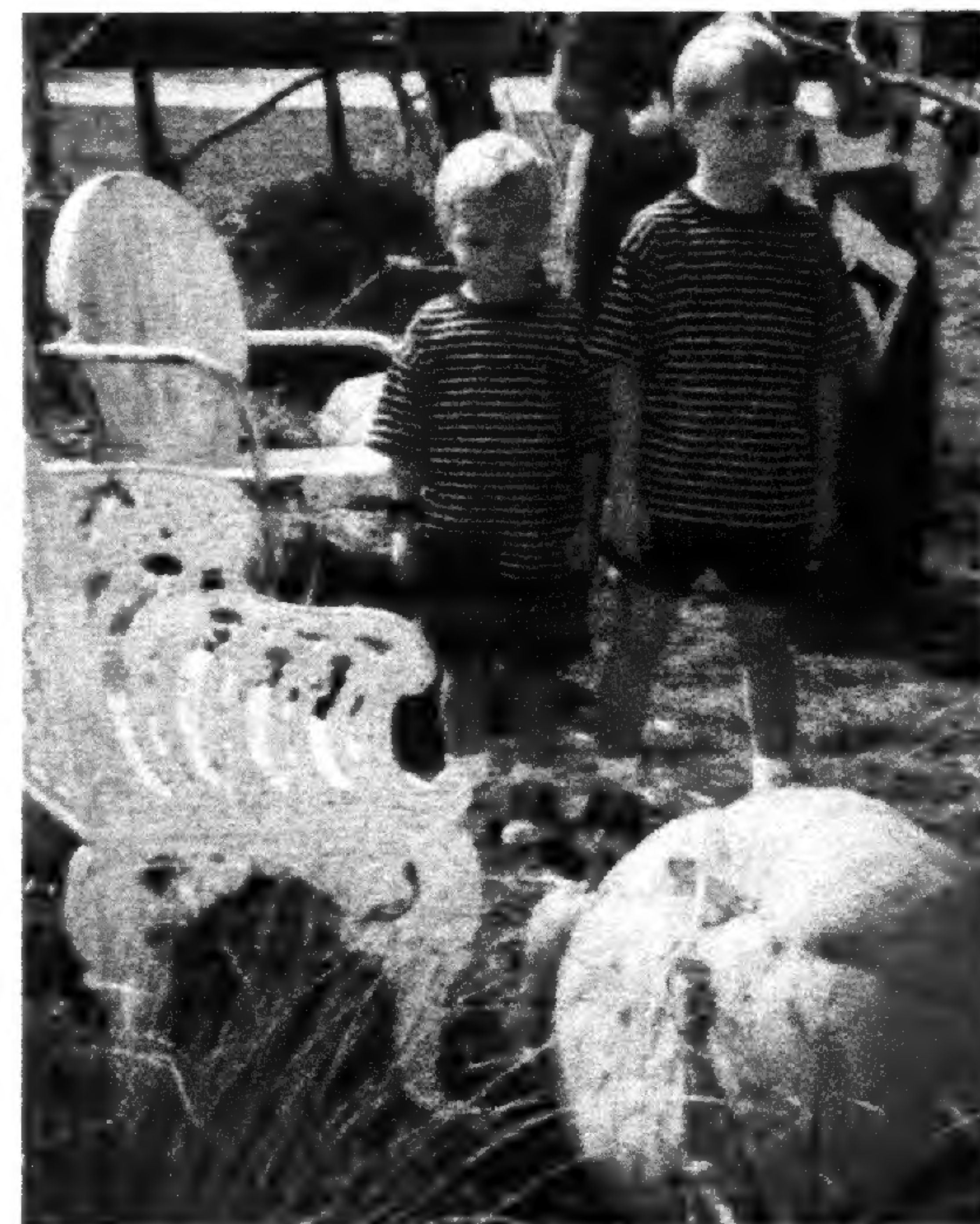
THE FOUNTAINHEAD

Designer: Jane MacDonald Adrian

Award of Excellence

**THE DARK SIDE:
AN HOMAGE TO
THE SURREAL**

*Designers: The Eastside
Germinators*



Information Services

Written by Joan DeFato, Plant Science Librarian
and David Lofgren, Plant Information Specialist

THE PLANT SCIENCE LIBRARY & PLANT INFORMATION SERVICES

One of the information sources available at The Arboretum is the Plant Science Library. Started as a staff library in 1948, it is now a public reference library. So the first thing to know is that it exists and the second is that it is open to anyone who cares to use it.

Our holdings reflect the plantings on the grounds (Australian and South African plants, herbs and other useful plants, roses, perennials) along with gardening and garden design as well as a touch of California history, birds and other natural history.

How would *you* find this library useful? Do you have a garden design labeled with names you don't know? Want to know what a plant is used for? Need a botanical name instead of the common name or vice versa? Common names of plants lead down interesting paths because a bluebell in one place is an entirely different plant in another. A lady called about a Spanish name and we found it in a Mexican book. When she came in, however, she said that our plant was not her plant. She went on to say that in Puerto Rico it grows like a weed. Sure enough, her plant was in a book on Puerto Rican weeds. Designers come to see pictures when working on projects such as designing a tea set using a wisteria theme or designing a carpet using the foliage of Australian plants. Movie studios request details of trees or vines so they can build them.

Newer resources include a CD-ROM version of *Index Kewensis*, useful in

checking botanical names and finding countries of origin without searching through 22 volumes of indexing. We also have a subscription to an Internet database, Plant Information Online from the Anderson Horticultural Library. This puts together two of their publications: *Source List of Plants and Seeds*, and index of catalogs, and *Flora*, an index of color illustrations with botanical names. It is searchable by botanical name, common name and variety name.

Plant Information had its origins with George Spaulding, the first superintendent at The Arboretum. When he stepped down as superintendent, he continued answering questions from an office in the Education Building. In later years, reorganization and changes in staffing led to volunteers fielding the questions and referring them to various members of the staff. Ultimately, a full-time staff person was again hired to provide information and now there are two, David Lofgren and Frank McDonough. In addition to their own knowledge, they have access to two Ph.D.'s and the library. The volunteers continue to assist and regularly meet for training sessions.

The questions we answer may involve plant identification, culture, diseases or pests and recommendations for specific landscape needs. Sometimes two neighbors with a horticultural dispute will call us. We try to help each one in



turn, giving the correct information to each side regardless of the merits of their case. Plant Information does not help just individuals. Nurseries, arborists, cities, Caltrans, County departments (such as Sheriff, Public Works and Parks and Recreation), pharmaceutical manufacturers and virtually anyone who has a horticultural problem can get our ear.

On one memorable occasion a Caltrans employee in charge of the landscaping of a freeway interchange brought in a swatch of rotting ice plant. He said, "I have 20 acres of rotting ice plants." When asked why it was so wet, he replied, "The contractor who put in the cuttings told me to water it every other day. My boss told me, "It looks sick. Do something. So I started watering every day." Nobody told him, but he was supposed to water only until the cuttings took root.

PLANT SCIENCE LIBRARY

626-821-3213

626-445-1217 (fax)

e-mail (jdefato@co.la.ca.us)

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday

PLANT INFORMATION

626-821-3239

626-445-1217 (fax)

e-mail (dlofgren@co.la.ca.us)

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DESERT TO JUNGLE NURSERY

3211 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello

FOUR SEASON ORCHID

823 S. San Gabriel, San Gabriel

GARDEN VIEW NURSERY

12901 Lower Azusa Road, Irwindale

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SMITH & HAWKEN

519 S. Lake, Pasadena

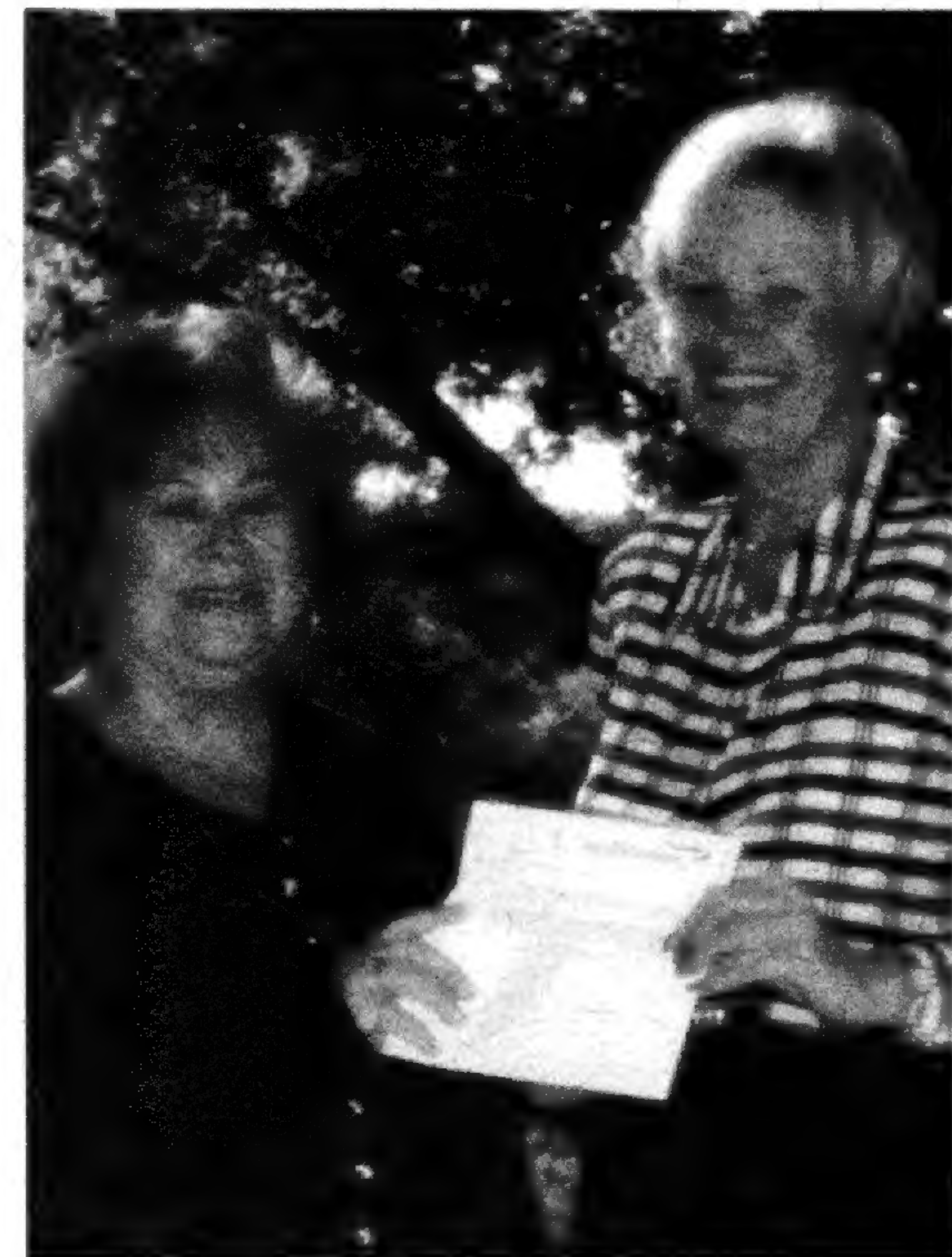
SOUTH PASADENA NURSERY

1507 El Centro, South Pasadena

STEWART ORCHIDS

3838 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City

3376 Foothill Blvd, Carpentaria



Pictured above is the lucky winner of the British Airways sweepstakes at the Garden Show held in October. Cindy Acosta, left, of Temple City accepts her prize of two free British Airways tickets from Foundation Director Judy Morse. Congratulations Cindy!

Goblins Sprout in the Garden



These garden goblins were part of the Halloween fun at The Arboretum. From left to right : Ian Boyd, Kami Hagemeyer, Trent Troncone and Calvin Christiansen.

Plant Quiz

1. When Hamlet said, "There's _____, that's for remembrance," what plant did he name?
2. When you hear or read an ad for an extract to improve your memory, what plant is being promoted?
3. What flower is made into a chain by students at Smith College?
4. What grass is mentioned in the title of a Scottish song?
5. What legume is also the name of a comic strip?

1. Rosemary 2. Ginkgo 3. Daisy 4. Rye, "Comin' Thro' the Rye" 5. Peanuts

'Tis the Season! for Holiday Fun at the Garden Shop

*Beginning Saturday, December 5
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily*

*Decor for Garden and Home;
matchless gift items for friends and
family and an atmosphere of happiness
and goodwill throughout the shop to keep spirits
soaring and the holiday spirit intact.*

*Join us at The Arboretum Garden Shop
'Tis The Season ... for Holiday Fun!*



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*The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is jointly operated by
the California Arboretum Foundation and the County of Los Angeles.*

CAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judith S. Morse

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